

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to show the deleted comma in brackets as requested by the Examiner. The bases for the wording added to the end of claim 1 may be found on page 7, lines 13-15, and page 11, lines 6-9.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 has been amended to re-introduce the word “doped” before “boehmite”, “MgO” and “brucite” as in claim 1 as originally filed. It is now clear “dopant” refers to all three metal sources.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 103(a)

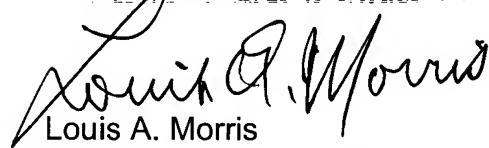
It is clear that the doped boehmite, MgO, and brucite are prepared by adding a dopant to a precursor of the boehmite/brucite/MgO, and then converting the precursor to the boehmite, brucite, or MgO. Hence, the dopant is present during the preparation of the boehmite, brucite, or MgO.

The documents cited by the examiner only disclose addition of the additive to the alumina or magnesium source that is added to the reactor. In the process of amended claim 1, the dopant is not added to the aluminum or magnesium source that is added to the reactor, but to a precursor thereof. Only after a subsequent conversion is the resulting doped material added to the reactor.

Amended claim 1 now clearly defines the doped materials and the Examiner cannot rightly hold that teachings of physical mixtures of boehmite (or MgO or brucite) with an additive (as in the prior art) would give any hint to the instant claims that would render them obvious.

An early allowance of the instant claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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